

CH-795

1880; 1904; 1949

Zion Baptist Church and Cemetery

Hilltop

Public

Zion Baptist Church, also known as Little Zion or New Zion Baptist, stands on the northwest side of Annapolis Woods Road in the rural community of Hilltop. The church is a relatively small structure covered in formstone. Built between 1949 and 1956, the church stands on the site of at least one former chapel built in 1904 on land donated to the church in 1880. The church is a front-gable structure with a parapet belltower. Cross-gable wings extend from either of the eave elevations, expanding the entrance area. Zion Baptist Church is the site of one of four original African American Baptist congregations in Charles County and is believed to have been established as a mission by the congregation of the parent church, Mount Hope Baptist Church. The site is significant as a unique architectural example and as a typical representation of African American cemeteries in Charles County.

Inventory No. CH-795

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Zion Baptist Church
other	

2. Location

street and number	8105 Annapolis Woods Road	not for publication
city, town	Welcome	vicinity
county	Charles	

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Baptist Zion Church [sic]				
street and number	8105 Annapolis Woods Road			telephone	301-932-6483
city, town	Welcome	state	MD	zip code	20693-3012

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Charles County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	53 p. 179
city, town	La Plata	liber	26 folio 295

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category		Ownership		Current Function		Resource Count		
						Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district	<input type="checkbox"/>	public	<input type="checkbox"/>	landscape	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private	<input type="checkbox"/>	commerce/trade	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	both	<input type="checkbox"/>	defense	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	site			<input type="checkbox"/>	domestic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	objects
<input type="checkbox"/>	object			<input type="checkbox"/>	education	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total
				<input type="checkbox"/>	funerary			
				<input type="checkbox"/>	government			
				<input type="checkbox"/>	health care			
				<input type="checkbox"/>	industry			
				<input type="checkbox"/>	religion			
				<input type="checkbox"/>	social			
				<input type="checkbox"/>	transportation			
				<input type="checkbox"/>	work in progress			
				<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown			
				<input type="checkbox"/>	vacant/not in use			
				<input type="checkbox"/>	other:			
						Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory		
						0		

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-795

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Zion Baptist Church, also known as Little Zion, or New Zion Baptist Church, stands on the northwest side of Annapolis Woods Road in the rural community of Hilltop. The church is a relatively small frame or block structure covered in form stone. Built between 1949 and 1956, the church stands on the site of at least one former chapel built in 1904 on land donated to the church in 1880. The church is a front-gable structure with a parapet belltower. A cross-gable extends the eave elevations at the foyer.

The church stands on a long narrow lot consisting of five acres. The front elevation facing southeast includes an arched entry in the belfry under a compass window. Single casement windows flank either side of the belltower on the main block as well as smaller windows in the cross-gable wall. The side elevation includes five bays divided by vertical bands with single windows centered in each bay. Additions include a rear front gable sanctuary attached to the northwest elevation and two front gables to the north of the chapel. The interior was not available at the time of the survey.

The cemetery stands to the west of the chapel and includes scattered graves arranged informally in family groups. The graves face northeast and include representative examples of grave markers such as modern marble tablets, arched cement tablets and concrete tablets.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-795

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1880;1904;1956

Architect/Builder unknown

Construction dates 1949-1956

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Zion Baptist Church is the site of one of four original African American Baptist congregations in Charles County and is believed to have been established as a mission by the congregation of the parent church, Mount Hope Baptist Church. The site is significant as a unique architectural example and as a typical representation of African American cemeteries in Charles County.

The church has been known variously as Zion, Little Zion, New Zion and Hilltop Baptist Church. In 1880, Harrietta A. Rennoe granted one acre "beginning at a cedar stake planted on the northwest side of the road leading from Hilltop to Glymont, and measuring approximately 69 yards square. Little Zion was organized in 1880 by Rev. S. Wilson. In 1904 a church was built on the site by Rev. R.B. Ward. The church membership presumably waned in the later decades until 1949 when New Zion was started by Rev. C.W. Richardson. In 1956 the current building was completed.

Mount Hope Baptist Church was established in 1867 by Rev. A. A. Watts. It became the founding church for three other African American Baptist communities including Oak Grove in Nanjemoy/Grayton (1883) as well as Pleasant Grove in Marbury/Chicamuxen (1907) and Little Zion in Hilltop (1880). All four of the earliest African-American Baptist churches in Charles County were clustered in the western section of Charles County and were likely influenced by the strong emphasis on missionary work at the Nanjemoy Baptist Church, which had been active in the region since the 1820's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-795

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 5 acres

Acreage of historical setting 1 acre

Quadrangle name Mathias Point

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 53, Parcel 179.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 2/5/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Inventory No. CH-795

Zion Baptist Church

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

"Charles County, Maryland Tombstone Inscriptions and Name Index." Charles County Historical
Society. Southern Maryland Studies Center, College of Southern Maryland

Hardy, Cathy Currey. "Phase III Final Report Charles County Historic Sites Survey."
Charles County Planning. July 2002.

KCI Technologies, Inc. *Draft--Historic Context For the U.S. 301 Southern Corridor
Transportation Study*. August 1996.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*.
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

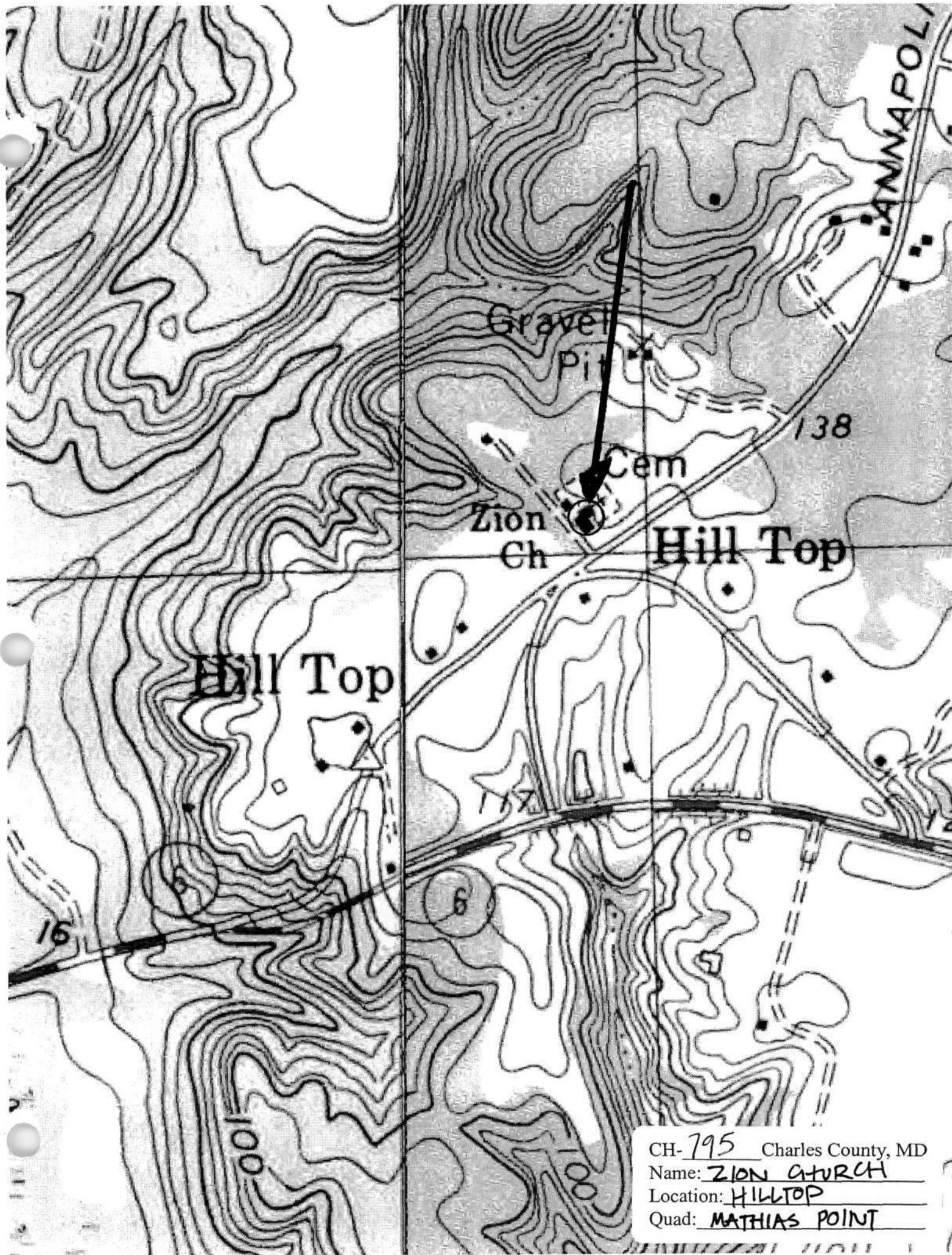
Little, M. Ruth. *Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Grave Markers*.
University of North Carolina. Chapel Hill. 1998.

National Trust for Historic Preservation. Website.
<http://www.rosenwaldschools.org/history.html>

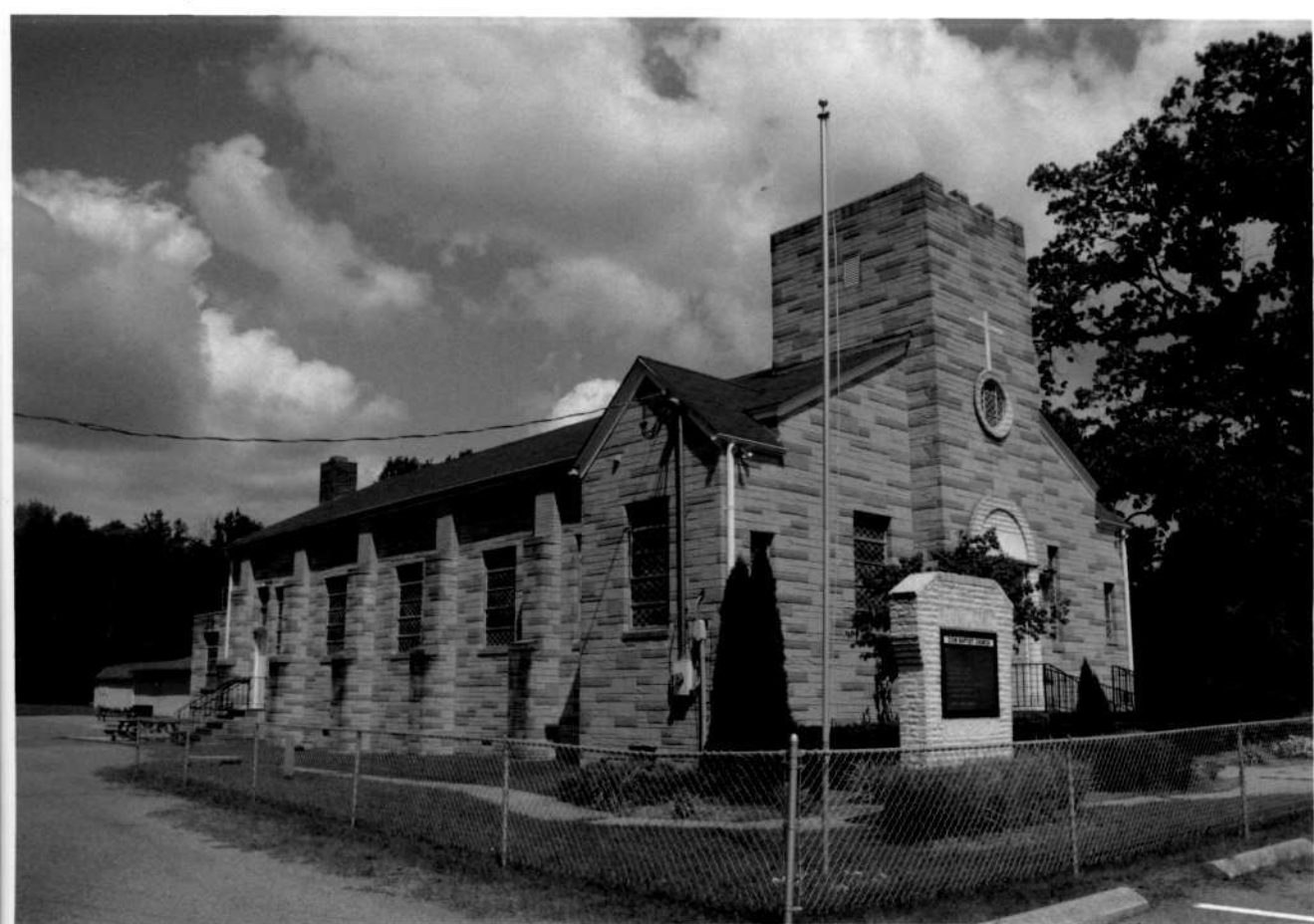
Maps

Griffith, Dennis. *Map of the State of Maryland Laid down from an actual Survey of all the
principal Waters, public Roads, and Divisions of the Counties therein....*Philadelphia, PA: J.
Tallance, Engraver, June 6, 1795.

Martenet, Simon J. *Martenet's Map of Maryland and the District of Columbia*. Baltimore, MD:
Simon J. Martenet, C.E., 1865; revised 1885.



CH- 795 Charles County, MD
Name: ZION CHURCH
Location: HILLTOP
Quad: MATHIAS POINT



CH-795

LITTLE ZION BAPTIST CH.

HILLTOP, MD

C. HARDY

U/2003

MD SAPO

LOOKING N

1 OF 3



CA-793

LITTLE ZION BAPTIST
HILLTOP, MD

C. HARRY

11/2003

MD STAP

LOOKING \$

2 of 3



CH-795
LITTLE ZION
HILLTOP, MD
C. HARDY
11/2003
MD SHPO
LOOKING SW
3003